

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 29, 2003 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The specification, claims and drawings were objected to for various informalities. These informalities are addressed in the present amendment.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pramanick. This rejection is respectfully traversed.


As set forth in claims 1 and 3 as amended, in the test arrangement of the present invention, a test circuit applies a first test sample in a first test clock cycle to the input of a combinational logic system of an integrated circuit and receives the output signal in a buffer memory. The test circuit then feeds back this output signal as a second test sample in a second test clock cycle to the input of the combinational logic system and receives the output signal of the combinational logic system in the buffer memory. Pramanick contains no such teaching or suggestion.

Rather, in Pramanick, two different operational modes are described in relation to the test circuit of Figure 3, one mode to test a path that begins at a primary input (page 968) and another mode to test a path that begins at a latch (page 969). Only the second of these modes describes a two-pattern test, or vector pair V1 and V2. The key step on page 969 is Step 3, to "create the 'all 1s/0s' → 'any value we want' transition at the L2 outputs." Steps 1 and 2 are preparatory to this Step 3. The last step, Step 4, is merely a capture step. Note the complete absence of any discussion of "capture, feedback, capture," as in the present invention. Also completely absent from Pramanick is any discussion of duplicate series-connected software models as claimed.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 3 are believed to patentably define over Pramanick.

Dependent claim 2 is also believed to add novel and patentable subject matter to independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-3 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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